

The Middletown Transcript

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING
—AT—
MIDDLETOWN, New Castle County, Delaware
PUBLISHED BY
T. S. FOURACRE,
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MIDDLETOWN, DEL., FEB. 21, 1903.

ADVERTISING ASSESSMENT LIST

The General Assembly has under consideration a bill that will authorize the publication of the assessment lists of the several districts in the newspapers in the same manner that the license lists are now published. With some amendments, this bill would be an improvement over the present law, and would result in a more uniform and equitable assessment and a consequent increase in revenue and at no more expense to the counties. Under the present system when the assessor has completed his work in December he hangs up a copy in each district for examination, and after a sitting for appeals, the list is turned over to the Levy Court and there revised and corrected. Then the Clerk of the Peace is paid to make a certified copy to be posted in the District, after which there is an appeal to the Levy Court during the month of March. We have no doubt that if the proposed bill were amended so as to cut out the items of useless expense under the present law, that with the greater publicity secured the appeals to the Levy Court and consequent changes would be practically nil. The great difficulty experienced by anyone who proposes to put our assessment and collection laws on a modern basis, lies in the fact that the system is based on fraud and rottenness. When enacted, the laws were framed for political purposes and no amount of amendment can correct this defective foundation. What is needed is an entire remodeling and a provision for a board of assessment that shall be in session continuously as in other States.

ANOTHER CAUSEWAY NEEDS ATTENTION

We have received during the week several expressions of approval of our course in calling attention to the lack of attention bestowed upon the Silver Run and Augustine causeways, and the citizens of East St. Georges Hundred are almost a unit in demanding that something be done at once. Other complaints keep coming in, being now directed against the condition of the Old Drawers causeway. One prominent citizen stated that he had crossed that causeway recently when it was nearly two feet under water. The trees that line either side of the road, and by the binding effects of their roots, do so much to preserve and strengthen the causeway, are dead or dying. The muskrats have cut holes into and through the banks, and the road is rapidly passing away. It is nearly a year ago that the entire Levy Court visited this section and went over and inspected among others, these three causeways, and it was decided that all needed something done to them. But it was left to the commissioner for this district to do the "something," and he has done nothing. If repairs are not promptly made, the county will have a large bill to pay for the negligence of one of its commissioners, and the Republican majority will be held responsible.

A CONSERVATIVE VIEW

The Philadelphia Press is one of the conservative Republican newspapers, which, while loyal to the principles of the party, does not hesitate to oppose men and measures when it considers them in the wrong. Its editor, Charles Emory Smith is one of the close friends of President Roosevelt, and what it has to say of the latest Addicks move is interesting.

"In his latest proclamation Mr. Addicks has not only made a serious mistake but committed a grave offense. Its threat of proscription will be deeply resented by every manly spirit, and its assumption of the control of the federal patronage after the 4th of March concerns the President of the United States himself."

Mr. Addicks says that "no man who refused to vote for him will ever be allowed to hold any office in Delaware. This flagitious attempt at intimidation is not merely odious on every moral and political ground; it is as obnoxious to the spirit and intent of the law as open and undisguised bribery." Mr. Addicks has not been discreet in his utterances, and he has seldom spoken with so little discretion as in this offensive deliverance. He might possibly in time have conciliated opposition to some extent by a more prudent course, but this in-

temperate utterance can only have the effect of intensifying the resistance he has thus far encountered.

His declaration as to appointments, if less culpable, is quite as ill-judged. He first threatens the political life of every man who refuses to vote for him, and then he practically assumes to say that, after Congress is in Ball's term shall expire on the 4th of March, the Federal patronage will be used for the same purpose. He declares that the appointments will then be in his hands, and plainly indicates that he will employ them to enforce the policy of proscription he had already proclaimed. That is an assumption to which President Roosevelt cannot be indifferent. Mr. Addicks, by his extraordinary folly, makes it impossible for the President to do what Mr. Addicks announces; and we venture to say that, rule or no rule, custom or no custom, the President will take the appointments into his own hands, and will make them strictly on the ground of merit without regard to faction.

When Mr. Addicks announced his withdrawal from the senatorial contest he appeared to be entering upon a course which might have given him a different position in the public judgment. Had he followed that announcement by faithfully urging the election of two Senators in such a manner that each of the Republican elements would have been fairly recognized and represented he would have planted himself on strong ground. But in his present most unwise utterance he forfeits all that he might have gained at home, and compels the President to show that the President cannot be misinterpreted and placed in a false position.

It was said of Mr. Addicks years ago that he could be depended upon to do or say the wrong thing at the right time. This is only added evidence of the truth of the saying.

CARELESSNESS

On Monday of this week the assistant supervisor at the Delaware State Hospital for the Insane was stricken with a severe case of small-pox and removed to the Emergency Hospital. This is the man who was sent to Mt. Pleasant about two weeks ago in the ambulance to bring back the colored man, Pratt, who had escaped from the Emergency Hospital and was captured by some of our local officers. Such carelessness in handling this loathsome disease is almost criminal. No satisfactory excuse has yet been given for Pratt's escape, and we can see no possible excuse for taking a man out of a supposedly healthy institution and compelling him to ride twenty miles in a close wagon with a bad case of small-pox. Then to permit that man to resume his duties and possibly inoculate the whole Insane Hospital, inmates and attendants is still more unexplainable. Somebody should be brought severely to book for this.

WANTS CONTROL OF BANKS

Dover, February 10th.—In a bill presented in the House by Mr. Austin yesterday the State insurance commissioner is authorized to assume supervision over all banks, buildings and loan associations, trust companies, safe deposit, guarantee and bonding corporations, incorporated under the laws of Delaware. The insurance commissioner shall require these corporations to make not less than two reports each year. The commissioner shall also have power to call for special reports at any time. Any corporation failing to send reports to the commissioner when required, will be liable to a fine of \$100 for each day after the period it delays to transmit said report.

Every officer who makes false statements or entries with intent to deceive the examiner appointed to the books, shall be guilty of a high misdemeanor.

The attorney-general, on notice by the commissioner, shall make proceeding against any corporation judged in an unsafe condition by the commissioner. The commissioner may take possession until the termination of the attorney-general's action, or until the appointment of a receiver by the law.

A tax of one-fourth of one percent shall be levied upon all of the surplus funds of said corporation, exceeding twenty-five percent of the said fund.

The commissioner is authorized to issue certificates to these corporations allowing them to do business in this State, the price of the certificate being \$100, and they will hold good for one year. A fee of \$10 will also be charged for the filing of a certified copy of the charter.

Each building and loan association, whether existing under the laws of this State or another State, will be required to furnish a detailed report showing the gross amount of interests, premiums, repayments and dues received and collected by said association, and its aggregate assets and liabilities at the close of the fiscal year, to be verified by the president and secretary of said association. Each building and loan association shall be required to pay an annual fee of \$5 for filing these reports and shall pay \$100 for the privilege of doing business in the State.

It shall be the duty of the commissioner to examine the accounts of an association whenever demanded by twenty shareholders.

The TRANSCRIPT \$1.00 per year.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

What the Law Makers Have Been Doing This Week

The Legislature has finished the seventh week of the present session and very little important business has been transacted. They adjourned Thursday noon to take a trip to Rehoboth.

The House passed the Pardee bill making it a penalty of \$5 for each musket killed by gunners when they are driven out by high tides.

The Governor and Secretary of State may stamp their autographs on license blanks now instead of signing them with pen and ink.

Representative Tyre's graded school bill provides that rural districts may combine and have a graded school with modern facilities.

Attorney General Ward on Tuesday addressed the House on the states of the New Jersey-Delaware controversy over territorial jurisdiction.

The House passed the act permitting persons to take out marriage license without giving bond.

The Senate Tuesday adopted a joint resolution providing for a joint committee to ascertain the ownership of Delaware College. The trustees desire an additional appropriation of \$15,000 for buildings and repairs.

Senate Clerk Baynum resumed his work this week after having been incapacitated for ten days by injury to his right hand.

The Senate Tuesday adopted Mr. Sparks' resolution instructing the clerk to furnish each member at the opening each day a printed calendar of the preceding day's session of each branch of the Legislature.

House bill providing for the appointment of a factory inspector at a salary of \$1200 was read and referred Tuesday.

The House bill for the protection and preservation of game was reported favorable Wednesday with an amendment making the shooting of woodcock open the entire year and providing the shooting of other game shall begin December 1st, instead of November 15th, and end January 15th, instead of December 31st, as at present.

The Senate by a vote of 11 to 6 passed Senate bill making the day for holding general elections a holiday. The object is to close the banks so corruptionists cannot draw money from bank on that day.

Several members of the General Assembly visited the State College for Colored Students Tuesday afternoon. An appropriation of \$4,000 is asked for the finishing and improving of the buildings.

Mr. Powell has introduced a bill appointing Dr. B. L. Lewis, W. H. Franklin and John D. Brown commissioners of Harrington and providing for raising \$1,000 for fire protection.

Mr. Warren's act to protect habitual drunkards makes a person who sells a drinkable liquor within a year after being warned liable to \$100 fine and six months imprisonment.

Mr. Holcomb's bill to abolish the kissing of the Bible when the oath was being taken passed by a vote of 28 to 2.

The Senate and House gave a hearing Wednesday to the representatives of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, who urged that the State make an appropriation for an exhibit at the fair, which will open at St. Louis May 1st, 1904.

Mr. Allee gave notice Wednesday of an act authorizing the construction, extension and improving of the sewer system of the town of Dover, and empowering the Town Council to borrow money to pay for the same.

The bill providing for steam boiler inspection has been re-committed.

Representative Groves introduced a bill making it a felony for any person to poison dogs and provided for the punishment of guilty persons with 20 lashes, 1 hour in pilory and 1 year imprisonment.

Mr. Holcomb introduced a bill which makes it a felony for any person to accompany a voter in a voting booth and provide a fine of not more than \$100 and 20 lashes.

TOWNSEND NOTES

Mr. Harry Hart, of Philadelphia, spent Sunday in Townsend.

Mr. Walter Finley, of Philadelphia, was in town on Tuesday.

Mr. Leon Clark, of Kenton, visited friends in town Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Whitehouse, of Wilmington, were in town Tuesday.

Mr. H. K. McCabe spent several days this week at his home in Selbyville.

Mr. Victor Smith, who has been working in Philadelphia, has returned home.

Mr. Clarence Smith, of Harlock, is visiting her mother-in-law, Mrs. H. M. Smith.

Invitations are out announcing the wedding of Miss Carrie Weldon and Mr. George C. Burge, February 28th.

Miss Winnie Price of Still Pond, Md., who has been visiting Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Watts, returned home Friday.

Mr. H. M. Smith and son, Elbert, have returned from Glasboro, N. J., where they have been employed in the glass factories for sometime.

Mr. Arthur Quillen, one of our oldest and most highly respected citizens, died at his home last Saturday. Mr. Quillen had been for many years a trustee of the M. E. Church and also a member of the school board. He had been an invalid for many months. Funeral services were held at the house on Tuesday morning; interment at Townsend Cemetery.

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The commissioner may take possession until the termination of the attorney-general's action, or until the appointment of a receiver by the law.

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TRADE LEADS MIDDLETOWN AS FOLLOWS:

North Bound—3.30, 7.30, 9.20 and 10.27 a. m.; 4.11 and 5.05 p. m.—3.30, 9.21 and 11.40 a. m.; 3.20, 4.14 and 7.5 p. m.

Mails Close as Follows.

Going North—7.30 a. m., 10.05 a. m., 3.50 p. m., 5.20 and 6.05 p. m.—3.30, 9.20 a. m., 11.40 a. m., 5.05 p. m. For Odessa—9.20 a. m., 11.40 a. m., 5.05 p. m.—3.20 a. m., 8.40 p. m.

MIDDLETOWN, DEL., FEB. 21, 1903.

Local News.

Yes, the groundhog saw his shadow. Full line of Fresh Groceries at E. F. INGRAM'S.

The predictions about the peach crop are beginning to come in.

DR. W. E. BARNARD, Surgeon Dentist, office Southeast corner of Main and Scott streets.

Wednesday night was the coldest of the year. The thermometer registered 3 degrees.

Bishop Coleman is expected to preach in St. Anne's Church next Wednesday evening.

WANTED.—Three ladies for the dress making department. Apply to Mrs. G. W. PETERSON.

FOR RENT or SALE—One Lot on Lake street. Apply to Mrs. B. T. BIGGS.

A splendid lot of Red Cedar Posts for wire fence at right price.

G. E. HUKILL.

A sale of pies, cakes, biscuits, salads, etc., will be held in the New Century Club room this afternoon from 2 to 5 o'clock.

Sunday was the fifth anniversary of the destruction of the battleship Maine, which was blown up in Havana Harbor.

The steamer Clio will resume her semi-weekly trips from Odessa to Philadelphia on Monday, March 2d. See timetable next week.

Will sacrifice first-class square Piano if sold at once. Latest style and in good shape. Apply to CHAR. H. WORKMAN, Odessa, Del.

At the public sale of Mr. Marcelus Jones which took place yesterday, good prices were realized, and Mr. Jones is well pleased with the receipts of his sale.

The Junior Eworth League of the Bethesda M. E. Church will hold a bazaar at the home of Miss Ada Scott, on North Broad street, on Friday evening, March 6th.

Notwithstanding the extremely cold weather, the administrator's sale of the late C. S. Goldsborough drew a large crowd on Wednesday and good prices were realized.

Until further notice the Middletown Public Library will be open on Tuesday afternoon, from 3.30 to 5; Saturday afternoons, from 3 to 5; Saturday evenings, from 7 to 8.30.

If you want THE TRANSCRIPT to come to you or to your friend for the coming year, just send in \$1 to pay for it and we'll do our part for the next 52 weeks. Our terms are in advance always.

With but one exception, last Sunday was the thirteenth consecutive inclement Sunday. Perhaps the mystic number "13" will break the spell and we may look for better weather to-morrow.

WANTED.—A young or middle-age man, well acquainted with the retail Hardware and Stove business. Apply with references and wage to MIDDLETON HARDWARE HOUSE.

If you have a cow sick or out of condition use "Kow Kure." For horses use "Rust Climax Condition Powder." To make hens lay use "Rust Egg Producer."

J. F. McWHORTER & Son.

Mr. William C. McCoy has again postponed his public sale, and will sell his stock, farming implements, etc., to-day, at 10 o'clock A. M., on the Julian Cochran farm two miles west of Middletown.

To-morrow is Washington's birthday, and some of our people will observe Monday as a holiday. Both of our National banks will be closed on Monday, and if you have a note coming due on the 23d, you should attend to it to-day.

The new dwellings of State Treasurer M. B. Burris on East Main street are nearing completion, and the contractors, Messrs. Z. T. Bradley & Son have a large force of men at work in order to have them ready for occupancy on March 25th.

We have on hand or will order STOVE REPAIRS for all makes of stoves. Give us the number of your stove and the makers name, and we will give you the repair at once.

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NOTICE.—Cabbage Plants for sale cheap. Grown from true seed of Jersey Wakefield and Big Charleston Wakefield. Will sell in large or small lots. Those wanting plants will do well to write me.

JOHN W. TAYLOR,

Mappsville, Va.

Mr. Frank Harris will remove his family to Dover where he will be District Superintendent for the Home Life Insurance Co., of Wilmington. Mr. Harris has held a similar position in this town for the past two years, and has met with much success in the insurance business.

An editor in a neighboring town sarcastically remarks that he wants to buy a sack of flour, a pair of shoes and a felt hat, and he is prepared to receive the lowest bids for the same. He says some of his own townpeople treat him that way when they want printing done to the amount of \$2 or \$3.

Betheda Eworth League meets in the lecture room of the M. E. Church every Sunday evening at 6.45 o'clock. Everybody is invited to attend. The topic for to-morrow evening is: "The Christian Man in Public Life." 2 Chron. 17:34; 29:20-27; Rom. 13:3-4.

The Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor of Forest Presbyterian Church, meets every Sunday evening at 6.45 o'clock. A cordial invitation is extended to everybody. The topic for to-morrow evening is "An Evening with Home Missions." Act 1:8. Mrs. G. B. Pearson, leader.

A slight fire occurred at the residence of Mr. William Sirman at the railroad station in this town early Friday morning. A fresh fire had been started in the furnace, and the blaze was caused by a defective pipe. The fire company was not called out, as the flames were quickly extinguished by a few buckets of water.

We have just received a car of Soft Coal. Price a little lower than recently.

G. E. HUXILL.

The latest trolley talk is that another company is preparing to build a line from Milford to Delaware City and connect with the Wilmington and New Castle.

WANTED—Good canvasser for unoccupied territory: free outfit; cash each week for whole or part time. Western New York Nursery Co., Dept. 2, Rochester, N. Y.

Mr. W. R. Polk, secretary of the Odessa and Middletown Railroad Company, has a notice in another column of this issue, calling the attention of the stockholders to a meeting to be held at the hotel of Charles W. Lloyd, in Odessa, on Saturday evening, March 7th, at 7 o'clock. A large attendance is desired.

The young lady friends of Miss Katie Droll tendered her a pleasant surprise party at her home on Anderson street Tuesday evening last, and the ten couples present had a very enjoyable time. Music, dancing and games were indulged in until a late hour when the guests were invited to the dining-room, where refreshments were served.

Unclaimed Letters.—The following list of letters remain unclaimed in the post office for the week ending February 12th:

Mrs. E. Beeson, Mrs. Annie Beel, (postal card) Mrs. Mary Boarder (postal card) Mrs. Edward Carey, Mrs. Annie Deputy, Miss Emma Martin, Miss Dell Sheffren, Mrs. Mary Wallace, Walter Crumpton, James Moss, Isabell Pratt, The Price.

Tomato growers are demanding \$9 and \$10 per ton as a basis for contracting—and, in view of the fact that labor has advanced from 12 to 20 per cent, the increased contract price is not an unreasonable one. It is probable that a compromise of the mind between the carriers and growers will be arrived at and the price be fixed at about \$8.50 or \$9 per ton.

Mrs. Elizabeth Cook, mother of Mrs. George M. Wilson who resides on Lockwood street has just finished a bed quilt containing 784 squares, and each one of these squares contains 8 small squares, making the quilt contain 6,272 squares al-

to. This is indeed a remarkable piece of work for a lady of Mrs. Cook's age, as she celebrated her 88th birthday on Saturday last.

Mr. George Minner who drives the Standard Oil Company's wagon between Middletown and Newark, had many trying experiences on his trip last week. The roads were very heavy, and in places the large wagon would fall in to the hub, and in some instances it would require four or five horses to pull it out. Mr. Minner arrived home one day later than usual, and let many of his regular customers unserved.

To put two columns of matter in one column of space is often the difficult task that confronts the TRANSCRIPT on Friday mornings, and if our regular correspondents would send in their weekly letters on Thursday morning instead of a day later, much of the trouble would be obviated, and they themselves would be spared the trial of having their contributions mutilated by the ruthless editor of the editor.

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Mr. Harvey Farris, of Smyrna, has accepted a position in Mr. J. H. Fortner's meat store on Broad street.

Mrs. Charles N. Dickerson was an Elton visitor this week. She was accompanied home by Miss Rebecca Shively, of Wilmington.

Mrs. I. S. Vallandigham will leave today for Wilmington, where she will make her home in the future. Mrs. Vallandigham has many warm friends in Middletown who will regret to learn of her leaving our town.

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Lynch, residing near Townsend, have issued invitations to the marriage of their daughter, Bertha, to Mr. William A. Lee, the ceremony to take place at the residence of the parents of the groom-elect, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Lee, on Wednesday evening, March 4th, at 7 o'clock.

The shirt factory which has been closed since Christmas resumed operation Wednesday morning under the management of D. L. Robertson & Co., of Glen's Falls, N. Y., and we are informed the new firm have already booked several large orders. At the present time they are short of operators, but many of the old employees who have secured positions in other towns will return in a short while, and the factory will then be in a position to turn out a large quantity of work.

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The public sale of Mrs. Jennie Goodeborough on the R. L. Price farm near Newark, began at 10.30 A. M.

Preaching services will be held in the Forest Presbyterian Church beginning to-morrow, (Sunday) and will be continued every evening except Saturday evenings. The Rev. Henry Rumor, D. D., will preach next Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, the Rev. W. L. Freund on Thursday evening, and the Rev. Joseph E. Parker, of Dover, will preach on Friday evening.

A series of evangelistic meetings will be held in Sassafras M. P. Church beginning to-morrow at 7 P. M. Services every night during the week.

The Ladies Aid will have their social in the school house on Monday night next. Persons having invitations to the same for Tuesday night, February 17th, please take notice.

Mrs. Urie P. Ginn gave an evening company at her home last Saturday evening in honor of Miss Alberta Tillman, of Salisbury, Md. The invited guest being Miss Ethel Vinyard, Daisy Day, Minnie Smith and Helen Eaton, Messrs. Guy Johnson, Bayard Vinyard and Archie Crawford.

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THE OPTION . . .

BY GEORGE HIBBARD

By the time Northup had reached this conclusion he had arrived at the "Front"—the low bluff, a part of the Park system, overlooking the Lake. He stood gazing over the black waters to the distinct line of the horizon made by the softer darkness of the sky. The brisk breeze swept over him exhilaratingly, and he turned first to the right where the river rolled swiftly away and then to the left, looking over the gleaming lights of the city to the distant hills of the Lake shore. At last he knew what was to be done. And yet at the moment he turned away he felt a sudden uncomfortable qualm. What had caused it he could not at first tell. He felt rather the coming of future doubt than doubt itself. Then suddenly he was brought to a realization of the fact which had lain dormant in his mind all the time and had now started up and demanded recognition. Impatiently he struck the ashes from the cigar that he was smoking.

He knew at last the fact that would give him what he wanted. But how did he know it?

From the lips of a young girl speaking unconsciously and in the freedom of a friendship so precious to him. Without knowing what she was doing she had given him information that was of inestimable value. This had been done, though, in her ignorance of business, in her girlish simplicity, and should—could—he take advantage of it? If she had understood the situation she would never have said what she did, and could he profit by her lack of knowledge? To take advantage of the chance that accident had thrown in his way would undoubtedly enable him to save a goodly sum of money. He tried it. He needed it for the accomplishment of his plans—needed it for the winning of the girl herself. And Eckert! Was not he entitled to consideration? If he were not willing to avail himself of the information ought he not to take what advantage was to be gained from it on Eckert's account?

The reasoning was specious and for a moment Northup was almost convinced by it. But if he was willing to lose his own larger investment in the venture, was he obliged to tell the other? No; even duty to a partner did not justify a dishonorable or even a questionable act. Julia Burnham had spoken to him as a person having no interest in the affair, and self-respect compelled him to behave as if he were what she thought him. He must carefully separate the Northup who held this option on the Rocky Point lands from the Northup who was Julia Burnham's friend.

He turned toward the city and slowly walked. He could not quite free himself from the fear that he was allowing himself to be unduly scrupulous. All would laugh at him, he knew. Amos Burnham himself, he felt sure, would be one of the first. Suppose that he were not in love with Julia, would the requirements of the situation be the same?

In a moment his judgment—in his taste, told him that they would be. And yet, from the point of view of the everyday business world he was not too particular—making too fine distinctions for practical life? He inhaled the smoke from the cigar and blew it forth impatiently in a thick cloud and tramped on sullenly. To be silent would assuredly be business folly. In the day he would certainly see that. His mood now was the result of his sight of Julia—the creation of the stillness and the darkness. All would be different, he told himself, in the day, time, downtown, with the stir of active business life about him.

Eckert noticed Northup's restlessness as he faced him in the private office, but was not surprised by it. He readily ascribed it to doubt as to the decision that must be immediately made. It'll soon be the hour, he said, looking at his watch.

What are you going to do? Eckert demanded sharply. I don't see but that you're in the even more than I am."

Suppose I asked you to decide? Northup said slowly.

Decide! exclaimed Eckert, "I've no more to go on than you have. I've been hunting everywhere and I can't get any inside information. The way those fellows have kept the thing dark is a cancer. Some of them must want to buy themselves. They haven't got anything on which a man

can reach a judgment.

They've certainly tried not to do it, answered Northup uncertainly.

I haven't any more reason for following one course than the other. It's just a toss-up. Shall we close with them or let this go? It's just as you say, Northup answered sullenly.

What's the matter? cried Eckert. I've never seen you like this before. Generally you've a mind of your own and something to spare.

You say what is to be done, insisted Mortheus desperately.

Somebody's got to say something, Eckert retorted as he glanced at the telephone. And pretty quick, too. I'd better call them up and tell them we're coming. If I can tell them what we are going to do at the same time so much the better. There aren't many minutes left.

I can't say, "Northup answered. I leave it entirely to you. Do what you think best.

You mean you won't, said Eckert angrily.

Yes, said Northup firmly. I mean that I won't if you'll have it that way.

Eckert turned away from the telephone.

What shall I say? he demanded. Northup was silent.

Have you lost your mind or your nerve? Eckert asked.

Do what you please, Northup called, moving toward the door as if to escape.

I've got to, said Eckert in dismay as he took up the receiver. Give me Huron 1232. He turned toward Northup, who stood by the door. Can't you speak?

No, said Northup with a short laugh; that's just what I can't do.

Yes! called Eckert through the telephone. Is that you? Is there you, Mr. Beesley? I'm going to come to see you. What are we going to do? I'll tell you when I come, he fairly shouted. I'll be there for the final arrangements.

Eckert turned away from the instrument the door closed and he found that he was alone.

Late that night Northup sat in the office-like library of his bachelor apartment. During almost the entire evening he had walked the floor and it was with real weariness that he had thrown himself into a chair. The hour was so advanced that little was moving in the street and the house was absolutely still. He was surprised, therefore, to hear a sudden step in the hall and a hasty knock at his door. As he called out, Eckert burst into the room. He was in evening dress and in his impetuosity a flower fell from the buttonhole of his coat. That he was too excited for utterance was manifest and he stood for a moment silent before Northup, struggling with his feelings.

And it's rather given you a set-back, he chuckled. Well, my dear, we all make mistakes, and such is our confidence in our own absolute wisdom that it rather has that effect on all of us.

Do you remember, she asked, that I complained the other night about business and business men? I said that it destroyed the finer feelings if a man ever had any, and that anyway a business man never had the chance to show them.

Yes, assented her father. Very well, she went on, speaking with greater swiftness, I find I'm wrong. Completely wrong. I've just learnt of something as high-minded, as delicate-minded as anything in romance.

But I do, papa, she said gently. If you promise never to do anything like it again.

I do, replied Burnham decidedly.

And, cried Julia ecstatically, I've been surrounded by mysteries.

The door opened and her own maid appeared.

Mr. Northup, Miss Julia, said the woman.

Oh, Julia, exclaimed, jumping up, I must go at once.

Well why don't you? her father asked as she lingered.

Because—because, she stammered. But you don't bear any ill will toward Mr. Northup for getting the land?

It's Mr. Northup, she answered readily.

Northup? Burnham repeated, looking up more interestedly.

Do you remember what you told me about being down on the river bank at five in the morning—and my being afraid that you would have a cold, which was surprised to find that you didn't have at all the next morning?

Yes, said her father.

Well, she went on, I didn't know that it meant anything, and I told Mr. Northup.

You did? said Burnham, his eyes twinkling and the corners of his mouth twitching. Ah!

I find that it meant a great deal. That with a Mr. Eckert he had an option, as it is called, on a great deal of land near a place called Rocky Point. If the Steel Company went there they would make a good deal of money.

And you told him, said Burnham, laughing loudly.

Yes, she answered. And now I find that your being where you were that morning meant that the plant was going on the river. That the land at Rocky Point had no value.

That's what you found, said Burnham, continuing to laugh. And how did you find out that?

Mr. Eckert is in love with Daisy Brown and tells her a great deal, and, of course, she tells me. I don't understand you, she continued, gazing at her father, who continued to laugh immoderately.

And with your Quixotic non-sense we've got the land on or

Never mind me, he said. And

so Northup and Eckert didn't take the land because you told Northup that?

But they did, she cried triumphantly.

What! exclaimed Burnham, falling into sudden silence and straightening himself up.

Mr. Northup would not use the information that he got in that way and he didn't tell Mr. Eckert and Mr. Eckert bought the land.

He did! said Burnham, starting to his feet.

Yes, papa. What is it?

Never mind. Go on.

I never heard of anything finer. Mr. Northup's showing such niceness about it and such consideration for me.

I should say so! said Burnham, picking up his cigar which had fallen to the floor as he laughed again. But he laughed with a short, sharp laugh this time—not the laugh of full, contented enjoyment of a moment before.

I don't understand you, Julia cried.

It's too good a one on me to keep, said Burnham. Though, mind you, don't say anything about it this time. Don't you see I told you what I did on purpose to have you tell Northup?

Papa! exclaimed the now scandalized daughter.

It's not good a one on me to keep, said Burnham. Though, mind you, don't say anything about it this time. Don't you see I told you what I did on purpose to have you tell Northup?

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If you wanted something dramatic, here it is. Northup and Eckert had their option on the land. The plant cannot possibly go anywhere else than at Rocky Point. If they had let it go we could have got it. If they could be made to think that the company was going on the river they would not buy.

It wasn't right, said Julia decided.

You told, her father continued, but he doesn't seem to have behaved as I expected.

It was outrageous, asserted Julia hotly. You should not have done it.

I know that, answered Burnham, laughing again, but you see there are inconveniences in having a pirate for a father.

It seems nicer in a book, gasped Julia.

It is, asserted Burnham emphatically. I don't defend myself and I don't forgive myself.

But I do, papa, she said gently. If you promise never to do anything like it again.

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